Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic Strengthening Project

Program Preferences

XI. Program Preferences

Program Preferences Met by Proposal

The Santa Anita Stormwater Flood Management and Seismic Strengthening Project (Project) meets one of the eight Program Preferences identified in the Proposition 84 & Proposition 1E Guidelines. The Program Preference met is Address Statewide Priorities. The following paragraphs describe how the Project meets three of the Statewide Priorities, the certainty that the Statewide Priorities will be met, and the breadth and magnitude to which the Statewide Priorities will be met. The Statewide Priorities are listed in the order that they appear in the Proposition 84 & Proposition 1E Guidelines.

Statewide Priority: Drought Preparedness

The Project will address Drought Preparedness by contributing to the sustainable water supply and allowing more efficient management of the East Raymond Basin. Improvements made to the Santa Anita Dam (Dam) and the Santa Anita Debris Basin (Debris Basin) will allow these two facilities to provide water conservation storage which was previously restricted by DSOD requirements. Water conservation storage capacity at the two dams will total 314 acre-feet.

Rehabilitation of the levee and installation of a new Obermeyer Gate to replace the tainter gate at the Santa Anita Headworks will be a key component to meeting this Drought Preparedness Statewide Priority. The existing configuration of the Headworks does not provide a reliable diversion from the Santa Anita Wash to the two spreading grounds due to the limited capacity of the levee that supports the tainter gate and the frequency that the levee would be washed out and lose all ability to divert water to the spreading grounds. The Obermeyer Gate will allow diversion to the spreading grounds during low-flow releases from the Dam as well as during high-flow situations by allowing excess water to safely flow over the Obermeyer.

Enlargement and modifications to the Santa Anita Spreading Grounds (Spreading Grounds) will improve operational efficiency and total groundwater recharge.

Completion of the four components of this Project is very certain to meet the Drought Preparedness Statewide Priority by combining increased water conservation storage, installation of a reliable diversion structure, and improved operational efficiency at the Spreading Grounds to provide a more reliable and sustainable groundwater recharge system to replenish the East Raymond Basin. The Project is estimated to provide 3,505 acre-feet of groundwater recharge on an annual basis, which is 452 acre-feet more than the recent recharge rate due.

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Statewide Priority: Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently

Improvements made to the Dam and Debris Basin will allow the District to capture and store urban runoff which will be recharged to the East Raymond Basin in the Sierra Madre and Santa Anita Spreading Grounds, thereby contributing to the Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently Statewide Priority. Approximately 10.8 square miles of the tributary area to the Santa Anita Debris Dam will contribute urban runoff. This recharge of stormwater runoff is accounted for in the Drought Preparedness Statewide Priority, which is very certain to be met by the Project.

Statewide Priority: Practice Integrated Flood Management

The main purpose of the Project is to meet the Practice Integrated Flood Management Statewide Priority. The improvement to the Dam and Debris Basin will provide the benefits listed in the guidelines as follows:

- Better emergency preparedness and response: Construction of the improvements at the Dam and Debris Basin will allow the District to ensure that they meet the DSOD requirements for the Probable Maximum Flood and the Maximum Credible Earthquake, thus allowing them to be used for flood protection and water conservation and reduce the likelihood of emergencies due to flooding. Automated dam safety instrumentation to be installed at the Dam and Debris Basin will provide dam safety engineers with immediate feedback on the performance of the dam following an earthquake.
- Improved flood protection: By constructing the seismic and structural improvements that meet the DSOD requirements, the Dam and Debris Basin will provide improved flood protection when compared to the existing facility conditions.
- More sustainable flood and water management systems: The improvements at the Dam and Debris Basin will allow for water conservation storage that, in combination with the new Headworks modification, and Spreading Grounds modifications will allow the District to provide a more sustainable and reliable flood and water management system along the Big Santa Anita Wash.

The completed project is certain to provide the benefits listed above that are part of the Practice Integrated Flood Management Statewide Priority. The breadth and magnitude of how this Project meets the Practice Integrated Flood Management Statewide Priority are detailed in the flood damage reduction economic analysis and in the water conserved for the Drought Preparedness Statewide Priority.

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Statewide Priority: Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality

The integrated components of this Project will allow the District to increase the amount of stormwater recharge into the East Raymond Basin. Percolated stormwater is considered high quality water which will dilute the existing contaminants within the Basin, thereby safeguarding the health of residents who utilize groundwater from the East Raymond Basin as their primary source of drinking water.